

# Scottsville Monthly

March 20 – April 16, 2020 ONE COPY FREE • Like Us On   
SCOTTSVILLE, VIRGINIA



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**Because of the fallout from the new coronavirus, the Scottsville Monthly will take a one-month hiatus. The paper will return on May 15.**

# Scottsville Monthly

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**Next advertising deadline: Wednesday, May 6, 2020**

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# Scottsville's Real Estate Market Vibrant

By Ron Smith  
Correspondent



The Scottsville Shopping Center was recently sold. All photos by Ron Smith

Over the past several weeks Scottsville's real estate market has seen an uptick in activity. Not only has the residential market shown movement, the commercial market has also seen its share of sales.

Probably top on the list is the recent sale of the shopping center. A group of individuals with ownership in Tiger Fuel has purchased Scottsville's shopping center, the "uptown" retail hub of the community. The new owners plan to make a few changes in the site. In addition to some facelift work to make the exterior more inviting and upgrade the site from its '60s look, Tiger Fuel would like to place a car wash on the property.

At the March 2nd meeting of the Scottsville's Planning Commission, Aaron Revere, representing Tiger gave a presentation outlining the plan to place a car wash on the parcel nearest the intersection of James River Road and Irish Road (Route 6) in front of the Food

Lion Store. The car wash would occupy the space currently designated for parking but used very little for that purpose.

Revere referred to renderings he presented to the commission stating that the structure would be in appearance similar to the car wash at Mill Creek, and that no alternations would be made to the existing traffic patterns in the area. He went on to say that the facility would be "environmentally friendly" with regard to lighting, landscape, and would recycle 56% of the water it used. There are also provisions for separating any oil from the water that is destined for the sewer system. There will be no changes to the shopping center entrances.

When asked by the commission if the water usage would impact the town's water supply, Town Administrator Matt Lawless stated the "we (the town) are currently using only 30% of our total capacity so that would not be a factor." Revere also said that there would be landscaping done that

would include the planting of native species of plants. This conforms to the recently passed town ordinance referencing plantings along entrance corridors to the town.

The Planning Commission was receptive to the presentation and asked that a public hearing on the matter be scheduled for its next meeting, April 6th at 7pm in Council Chambers. Also on the agenda that night will be a public hearing on the Small Area Plan the commission has been working on for some time.

There have been a couple of other commercial transactions recently. In addition to the Masonic Building sale that was reported upon last month, 330 Valley Street, home to Farmstead Ferments has been sold. This historic building has seen a number of occupants during its lifetime and has several apartments on the second floor.

Also, it has been reported that the old Dollar General store, next to Victory Hall Theater, has been sold. Walter



## The Cover

Friends of Esmont, out field tripping. L. - R. Judy Brochia-Blake, Ed Brooks, Peggy Purvis Denby, Doug Bush, and Don Jones. Brochia-Blake, Brooks, and Bush serve on ESM's Advisory Committee.

Photo by Patrick Healy

Cover design by Marilyn Ellinger



The 330 Valley Street building recently sold.



The former Dollar General store recently sold.

Neighbors has operated a “second hand” store out of that facility for a number of years. This building also has apartments on the second floor.

And it’s not only commercial properties that are fueling the current real estate activity. A number of private properties have come on the market of late. Some of these have significant historical import to the community.

Kevin Quick, real estate professional and appraiser, said “the number of listings has been up. The first half of 2020 has seen a very active market and business has been good.” When asked about the coronavirus situation and its effect on the economy, Quick responded that “although we don’t know what the future holds, so far he has not seen any correlation between the virus outbreak and the [local] real estate market.”

Scottsville is, for the foreseeable future, eyeing a continued strong real estate market. Farmstead Ferments will remain where they are. The old Dollar General will have something new. The town continues to thrive. It’s a good place to live!



There are a few historic Scottsville homes for sale.



Dante L. Walker. Photo courtesy Kay Cotton, Scottsville Lions Club


## Bland Music Scholarship Winner

Dante L. Walker, a junior at Charlottesville High School, placed first in the instrumental division at the recent Scottsville Lions Club Bland Music Scholarship competition. Dante performed Chopin's Polonaise in A Flat Major, Op. 53. He will compete at the Lions District Competition in April and if successful will move to the State Finals in May.

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By Patrick Healy  
Correspondent



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**T**his year has gotten off to a good start for local nonprofit, the Friends of Esmont, known by their black-on-white bumper ovals as ESM. Since its founding, ESM has worked to unite people in the village of Esmont with those in the surrounding communities in order to restore and preserve the rich history and notable landmarks of those communities. Among other goals, ESM seeks to renovate Purvis Store, enable and nurture a wildlife wetland along Ballenger Creek, convert the abandoned Quarry Line track bed to a hiking/cycling trail linking Esmont to Alberene, and write a definitive history of Esmont.

Last year, ESM applied for a couple of grants, one for the rails-to-trails project and the other to support the writing of their history. They got both. This year ESM will take its first steps along their complex trail project, and bind the pages of Esmont's history between attractive covers.

The Bama Works Fund of the Dave Matthews Band at The Charlottesville Area Community Foundation donated \$ 5,000 to fund a one-year planning study of the rails-to-trails project. Naturally, ESM Trails Committee Chair, Anna Boeschstein is pleased to have this gift.

"These landforms run through the Southern Albemarle countryside," says Boeschstein.

"They once were old railroad beds, trestles and turntables connecting the Alberene/Esmont quarries to the James River, and to the Charlottesville railroad."

As ESM Chair and co-founder Peggy Purvis Denby points

out, "The trail will complement and eventually connect with other trails planned by the county."

OK. So there's an existing path through the woods that some people want to turn into...a path through the woods? How come that costs so much to study?

Well, because there is a heck of a lot more to consider than just that; for instance, surveys. Boundary surveys are essential. Nobody installs anything permanent along a property edge based on some lines on an old map; and trails aren't much more than property edges. Which brings us to mapping. What if a new trail right-of-way can't be obtained and the trail has to diverge from the original track bed? Here, ESM co-founder, Peggy Denby's husband Don Jones, adds some insight. "We [he and Denby] received permission to walk along the easements, but that doesn't mean anyone can use these rights-of-way as trails." Jones leaves the "...yet." unspoken.

Then there are the environmental surveys. How's the groundwater doing down there? Are these proposed trails creek-friendly? For that matter, will the creeks wash out the new trails? Are there any native flora peeking out amongst the rank invaders. Are rare habitats for wee creatures lurking about? On the archaeological front, there may be grown-over structures, unmarked graves, or long since cultivated heirloom plants that need to be considered. And every bit of this, from property deeds and easements to silt-bound and vine covered ruins, holds its own piece of history.

**See Esmont page 6**

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Looking North along the old Soapstone Short Line railbed in Esmont. The Esmont Depot was located on the wide flat spot just across the road.  
All photos by Patrick Healy



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**As we all take precaution to protect ourselves and others from the spread of coronavirus, we can't forget that kids still need good food, even when school is out.**



Many kids in our community rely on the free and reduced-price meals they receive at school. These meals may be the only nutritious food that they'll receive on a given day. Therefore, FCPS is offering grab and go meals free of charge to children, 18 years and under, from low-income areas.

Each child will receive 5 breakfast and 5 lunch meals that meet USDA meal pattern requirements. The meals will consist of items that parents can prepare at home, as well as ready to eat items. Food safety guidelines and food preparation instructions will be included with the meals.

Per USDA guidelines, an adult must be accompanied by a child in order to receive the meals.

Each student gets a USDA approved breakfast & lunch entrée, which includes a whole grain and/or protein, fruit or 100% juice, vegetable (lunch only) and milk.

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- Kellogg's PopTarts
- Popcorn Chicken
- Fish Filet with Bun
- Pizza
- Uncrustables PB&J Combo
- Calzones

For more information about FCPS meals, visit <http://fluco.org/food-services-home/>, call 434-589-4344 or contact Gwendolyn Jones, Food Services Supervisor at [gjones@apps.fluco.org](mailto:gjones@apps.fluco.org)  
 Menu items are subject to change; Meals are available on a first come first serve basis.  
 USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



One of Esmont's abandoned stores. If these walls could talk...

## Esmont from page 4

Thanks to Virginia Humanities of Charlottesville, ESM has a \$5,000 research grant to delve into that history, as well.

Over the last few months, historian Andi Cumbo-Floyd, has been sweeping up the scattered fragments of this history. Her gleanings come from photos in old family albums, oral histories including the recollections of nonagenarians, and deeds, newspapers and diaries from still more distant pasts. Regarding the grand estates of Esmont, her research will extend from the earliest land grants to the present day. The corollary story of the Porters and Chestnut Grove communities will be spotlighted in a similar manner. The village of Esmont will get the birth-to-present treatment as well, with special focus on the impact of the Soapstone Short Line railroad. No less focus will be on Esmont's buildings: the old plantation houses, certainly, but also the old schoolhouses, and commercial and industrial sites.

Esmont's stores will not be forgotten. The Purvis Store, where Ms. Denby was born and raised, was a village mainstay for generations. At the other end of town stood Steed's Store. These institutions did much more than offer goods for sale. They also served as communication centers (they had telephones), provided credit, and became ad hoc meeting places in good times and bad. Since one of Ms. Denby's relatives ran a horse-trading business out of a back room at the Purvis Store, one could add Mobile Used Horse Lot to the list of services these establishments provided. During its heyday, Esmont had as many as six stores. The smaller

ones might carry niche items or resemble permanent garage sales which would open at the owners' whims. It may be fair to say that the history of the Esmont, Porters, and Chestnut Grove communities was made, day by day, in these stores.

ESM is delighted to have found Ms. Cumbo-Floyd. After graduating from Fluvanna County High School in 1993 she went on to earn degrees in English, History, and Literature. Her MFA degree in Creative Writing - Creative Nonfiction Genre, suggests that her Esmont history will be anything but a dull catalogue of who-that names, and random dates.

Cumbo-Floyd has worked as an instructor and lecturer at numerous colleges and universities. For two years she worked as a research assistant for Stanford University's Papers of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. project. There she did both document research and face to face interviews; the same methodology she is using for her Esmont project.

Currently, Cumbo-Floyd works freelance as an editor and writer, while running her own God's Whisper Farm, a writer's retreat in near-by Radiant, Virginia.

Ms. Cumbo-Floyd's research will finish at the end of this month. Virginia Humanities of Charlottesville will then grant the funds for her to write up the results. Her History of Esmont should be available by early summer. Peggy Purvis Denby, Don Jones, and their ESM cohorts see Cumbo-Floyd's work as the solid foundation on which their future undertakings will rest.

As one of Ms. Cumbo-Floyd's fellow free-lancers famously put it, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."



## Water Main Replacement

The Albemarle County Service Authority announced on March 5, 2020 that drivers use caution along East Main Street in Scottsville. Water main replacement is underway and will extend into early summer. Utility work is on schedule on Main Street. Please be careful and respect the work crew in town. They're installing new fire hydrants and bigger water lines that will last 80 to 100 years!

Town of Scottsville Facebook page.

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Liz Palmer [County of Albemarle Board of Supervisors] was our guest speaker.

## A Busy Eventful Day

What a day on March 10, 2020 at the Esmont Community Senior Center-JABA. We had Liz Palmer [County of Albemarle Board of Supervisors] who came to speak to us; we had UVA students (Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at UVA) come garden for us (heavy mulch lifting) and help with activities; and just when we needed it, we had someone offer "heavy equipment" to help us move dirt who happened to be working in the Yancey parking lot! While this was all happening, we had our delightful volunteer Russ bringing in food from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank What a team!! Thank you everyone!

For more information about the Esmont Community Senior Center - JABA, 7625 Porters Rd • Esmont, Virginia 22937 call: (434) 286-3100 Find us on Facebook



UVA students help with garden beds.

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Program begins at 5:45 pm.



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APRIL 16

## Reaching Across the Aisle: A Political Chat




Interested in a civil conversation on politics between two friends from both sides of the aisle? Come join two Senior Fellows at UVA's Miller Center, **Chris Lu** and **Mary Kate Cary**, for a political chat on the latest in the presidential race and current political news. Chris, who served as both deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor and White House cabinet secretary for President Obama, will be joined by Mary Kate Cary, who was a White House speechwriter for President George H.W. Bush and now teaches in UVA's Politics Department. Both Cary and Lu are frequent political commentators on radio and television. These two highly respected colleagues promise it will be an evening of "red and blue without the black and blue."

Make your reservation early.  
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



## Brunswick Stew Church Fundraiser April 4th

Scottsville United's Methodist Men will hold their Spring Brunswick Stew Fundraiser on **Saturday April 4th**. Featuring beef sirloin, chicken and bacon simmered with a variety of garden vegetables, the SUMM Brunswick Stew will sell for \$8 a quart (2 quarts \$15), with net proceeds going to Methodist Men local charity

missions. Quarts will be on sale Saturday April 4th in Scottsville at the Farmer's Market Pavilion, in front of Lucky's (305 Valley Street) and Rivertown Antiques (Scottsville Shopping Center), and at the church's Fellowship Hall (158 Main Street). Advance orders can also be placed at [shainsworth@sumc-va.org](mailto:shainsworth@sumc-va.org) or 434-286-4736 for pickup at the Fellowship Hall. **More info at 434-286-4736. Call to find out if this event is taking place because of coronavirus.**

## Health & Rehabilitation and Senior Living



**Christopher Von Elten, MD**  
Medical Director, Dogwood Village

*Dogwood Village would like to thank our local physicians for their dedication and compassionate care in celebration of Doctor's Day March 30th.*



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## Open Music Jam in Scottsville Friday, March 20th & March 27th • 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (weekly on Fridays for 52 times)

James River Brewery  
561 Valley St. Scottsville

Have fun playing your instrument, singing along, and just listening to music from our local talent, and drink your favorite JRB brew! Wow us with your musical prowess and you could earn yourself a paid gig at our brewery. Cost: Free - Contact for more information: **Ron Smith, 757-719-4424.**

## Launch Party and Book Signing of the book OUTSIDE IN, INSIDE OUT Vol. 1 by Dr. Sakina G. Sawtelle, MscD; PsyThD.

**Saturday, March 21, 2020 3 - 5 PM** at Buckingham Community Art Center  
Light refreshments, entertainment and readings from the book.

I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to come, and to those of you who are not able to come I have given a link below where you may order my book.  
<https://jendayiastafford.com/dr-sakina-g-sawtelle/>

• The public hearing on: Car wash and Small Area Plan scheduled for the April 6th Planning Commission meeting is rescheduled for May 4th.

**Scottsville Farmers Market 2020 Season opening is April 4th.** Every Saturday 9AM - 1PM rain or shine. If you are interested in becoming a vendor please contact Debbie Smith [market@scottsville.org](mailto:market@scottsville.org)

**Scottsville Events and Tourism Committee** - second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Victory Hall - Chaired by Vice-Mayor Laura C. Mellusi, this committee consists of dedicated volunteers and town staff that are governed by Town Council. The group coordinates and executes town-sponsored cultural events, strives to maintain event information on the Scottsville website and social media pages, and promotes tourism for the greater Scottsville area.



## The LMVF&R AUXILIARY Needs YOU

Need to complete that "Volunteer" section on the college application? Feel the need to volunteer because you want to support something worthwhile? - Become a member of the Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad (LMVF&R) AUXILIARY.

The Auxiliary is made up of men, women and teens who are looking for a way to help support their community. The Auxiliary is the fund raising arm of LMVF&R. We conduct activities such as Bingo, Game Day, Golf Tournament, and the Annual Fund Drive, to name a few. Volunteers are needed to make these events happen. There are no dues. Meetings are held the last Saturday of each month -January thru October at 9:30 AM in the Maple Room at the Fire House.

**Email us** at [lmvfdthankyou@gmail.com](mailto:lmvfdthankyou@gmail.com) (attention Auxiliary), **come to our next meeting or call the treasurer's office** at 589-5650 x 102 and leave a message with your name and phone number. **We hope to hear from you.**





### Community Easter Egg Hunt

Hosted by **Scottsville Baptist Church**  
**Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 10:30 AM – 12 PM**

Dorrier Park • 201 PAGE St, Scottsville  
 Come join us for some Easter fun! Saturday April 11th, Scottsville Baptist Church is hosting an Easter celebration. There will be music, egg hunt, donut walk and glitter tattoos.

10:30 Donut Walk • 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt • Everyone is welcome!

Call 434) 365-0521 or [scottsvillebaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:scottsvillebaptistchurch@gmail.com) to find out if this event is taking place because of coronavirus.

### Scottsville Scoot

Hosted by **Michelle Kelly Pitsiokos and Scottsville Elementary**  
**Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 7 AM – 10 AM**

250 Page St, Scottsville  
 6th Annual Scottsville "Scoot"  
 Kids' 1 mile walk/run and 5k walk/run  
 The kids' 1 mile walk/run registration begins at 7:15 AM  
 The youth and adult 5k walk/run registration begins at 8:00 AM

<https://www.active.com/scottsville-va/running/distance-running-races/scottsville-scoot-5k-and-1-mile-fun-run-2020>



### Town Elections coming on May 5, 2020

The elections for Mayor and Town Council of Scottsville are on May 5, 2020. Scottsville voters elect a mayor and six members of town council.

**Boy Scouts of America Troop 21.** This group meets on Mondays at the Scottsville United Methodist Church. Joice Harris is the Troop Scout Master and can be reached at 434-286-3708 or [jharris086@aol.com](mailto:jharris086@aol.com).

**Lion's Club** meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at the Scottsville United Methodist Church.

### AA – Alcoholics Anonymous meets on

- Tuesdays, 7:30 PM at the Scottsville United Methodist Church next to Lucky's.
- Wednesdays, 6:00 PM at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Howardsville Rd., Glenmore, in Buckingham
- Saturdays - Celebrate Recovery - Antioch Baptist church, 4422 Antioch Rd, 5:30 PM - This is for anyone looking to overcome a hurt, habit, or hang up. Dinner is provided at 5:30 along with childcare.



Spring arrives in Scottsville.  
 Photo by Ron Smith

# Fluvanna County Arts Council



Presents the 2019-2020 Season  
 at Carysbrook Performing Arts Center



**Moon Over Buffalo**  
**April 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26**  
**Friday & Saturday at 7:30**  
**Sunday at 3:00pm**

It's the summer of 1953, and former Broadway stars Ch... and George Hay... run-down

Buffalo when they re... one last ch...

**POSTPONED**  
 Check back later at <http://www.Carysbrook.org> for new dates

...nce... of The Scarlet... of pratfalls, backstage shenanigans... chance of success? This fast-paced, hilarious, screwball comedy is a valentine to the stage and the larger-than-life personalities that inhabit the world of the theatre.



## Next Performance:

**The Fluvanna Community Singers**



Admission: Free

## Spring Concert

**Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm • Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00 pm**

The Community Singers' Spring Concert always has a few surprises, plus lots of fun and laughter!! Under the skillful directorship of Scott David, the concert is guaranteed to be a highly entertaining musical performance which will have you tapping your feet and humming along.

**A Financial Donation to the Fluvanna Food Pantry is Appreciated**

**Unless otherwise specified, Admission is: \$12 Advance, \$15 Day of Performance, \$10 Student/Military/Veterans, Family Package \$5/person (2 Adults max, + 3 or more children)**

• To purchase online: <http://www.Carysbrook.org>

Please note: No reserved seating.

Carysbrook Performing Arts Center • 8880 James Madison Highway (Hwy 15)  
 Fork Union, VA 23055

# In Scottsville, Spring Has Sprung!

By Ron Smith  
Correspondent

**P**unxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog from Pennsylvania, may have had it right when he predicted an early spring. Our neighbors to the north might testify that, for them, he missed it completely!

We have been fortunate to have experienced a relatively mild winter although we all know anything can happen in March. And, since this edition of the Monthly is hitting the streets ten days before the arrival of April we hope the cold of winter is gone, and the warmth of spring is just ahead. Like the flowers and leaves that have reappeared, several Scottsville activities are ready to make their 2020 debut.



**Saturday, April 4th** will see the opening of the 2020 Scottsville Farmers Market. According to Market Manager Debbie Smith, "at least 75% of our longtime vendors have signed on for this year's season and, with the new vendors coming aboard we will have more than thirty vendors this year."

**At 2:00 pm, Sunday, April 5th** the Scottsville Museum will open for its 2020 season.

Special guest Sue Miles, who grew up in Glenmore, Buckingham County, will talk about her book "Glenmore: Memories of My Youth". She will talk about writing a personal history and the challenges and rewards of undertaking such a project. The museum is open each weekend through the end of October and as always admission is free.

**Saturday, April 18th** at 7pm the Scottsville Lions Club will host Bingo at the Scottsville United Methodist Church Social Hall. The club provides assistance with the purchase of glasses and collects used glasses to be recycled. Under the efforts of Lion Alex Stone the club, last year, collected over 1,000 pair of glasses for recycling. Pretty good for a small town!



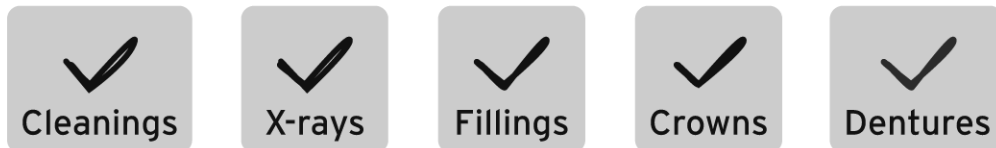
Farmers Market Manager Debbie Smith and customer Pam Goodwin.  
All photos by Ron Smith

The Greater Scottsville Chamber of Commerce will host a "Business After Hours" on **Tuesday, March 31** at 320 Valley Street, the space formerly occupied by Gallery 527. All Chamber members are urged to attend, and anyone interested in learning more about the Chamber or joining should plan to attend also. The event will begin at 5 o'clock pm.

See Spring page 11

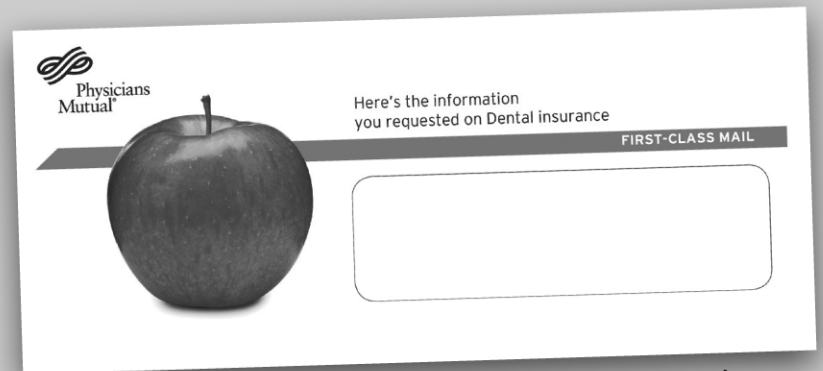
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Like most other months, the Scottsville Library calendar of events is full. While a number of programs continue, there are several new programs that require registration in order to participate. These include "Computer Classes for Adults", "Older Women's Legacy Writing Workshop", and "Curious Kids Book Group." The library literally offers something for everyone. There will also be a library book sale on April 4th. Visit their website or give them a call if you have questions.

The James River Runners Chili Cook-Off, The Scottsville Scoot 5K and Fun Run, the Pollinator Celebration, and the annual Batteau Festival are just a few of other events on the list of what's upcoming. To find out about future events go to the town's website and look at the events calendar.

People sometimes say there is nothing to do around here, but if you check you will find more to do than you may have expected!



The town of Scottsville has rescheduled its annual clean-up day to Saturday, April 25th.



On Sunday, April 5th the Scottsville Museum will open for its 2020 season.

## COVERED 19 Changes Things!

Due to the virus situation please make note when reading my articles in this edition of The Monthly:

- The Town Clean-Up Day has been postponed until Saturday, April 23rd.
- Public hearings on the Small Area Plan and the proposed car wash are rescheduled for the May 4th meeting of the Planning Commission.
- All SCAN functions have been put on hold until after April 3rd. There will certainly be other cancellations and changes. The best advice is to contact the sponsoring group or organization for more information.

Thanks for everyone's understanding. We will get through this!

Ron Smith

# A Note To Our SCAN Community

We have all watched together as the story of COVID-19 has been unfolding around the world. We all affected by the complete closing of Virginia's school systems\* and as President Trump declared a national emergency. SCAN is dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of our community.

As an educational facility, we have chosen to close all SCAN programming until April 3rd, when we will reassess the risk to our community. If no risk presents itself, SCAN will resume all recurring classes and lessons, including the scheduling of makeup classes. It is our highest priority to limit the spread of any contagion that could impact our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,  
Erin Root (President)  
Grace Young (Program Director)  
Amber McBride (Secretary)  
Heather Stertzler (Treasurer)  
Kristin Freshwater (Theatre Director)

### Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

#### ACROSS

- 1 Priceless?
- 5 Head monk
- 10 Long in the tooth
- 14 Enlarge, as a hole
- 15 System of beliefs
- 16 Whimper
- 17 Jason's ship
- 18 Surfer's need
- 19 "\_\_\_ and shine!"
- 20 Empty group, in math
- 22 Tolerated
- 24 Sound a bell
- 25 Like some witnesses
- 28 Sequel's sequel
- 30 Familiar with
- 31 Barnyard bleat
- 34 Office door adornment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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40					41			42		43			
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48				49	50				51				
			52	53				54		55	56	57	58
59	60							61	62				
63					64	65	66			67			
68					69					70			
71					72					73			

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#### DOWN

- 1 He played Danny in the original "Ocean's 11"
- 2 Air again
- 3 Bird of prey
- 4 Skin softener
- 5 Top of the heap
- 6 Clear soup
- 7 River bottom
- 8 Laudatory lines
- 9 Salad ingredient
- 10 Time for showers
- 11 Traveler's aid
- 12 End of a threat
- 13 Legal title
- 21 Docking spot
- 23 Storage containers
- 26 Place to go play
- 27 Witch's work
- 29 Wis. neighbor
- 32 Top-notch
- 33 Many miles off
- 34 Clownfish of film
- 35 Swear
- 36 Rock from outer space
- 37 Garlicky mayo
- 39 Luau fruit
- 42 Pilot's announcement, for short
- 45 Newspaper bio
- 47 Shell competitor
- 50 Exaggerate
- 53 Eyelid cosmetic
- 54 Moscow money
- 56 Lavender flower
- 57 Bust a gut
- 58 Feeling of anxiety
- 59 Give a hand?
- 60 Cornmeal cake
- 62 Pinball error
- 65 Missile's path
- 66 Mare's mouth-piece

# Albemarle's Black Classrooms

By Patrick Healy  
Correspondent

**O**n Saturday afternoon, February 22nd, about 80 people packed into JABA's Senior Center space at the Yancey Community Center to watch Lorenzo Dickerson's documentary film, *Albemarle's Black Classrooms*. Dickerson heads up Maupintown Media, based in Ivy. When he is not producing informational videos for corporate and institutional clients, Dickerson creates award winning documentaries. *Albemarle's Black Classrooms* is clearly a labor of love, and Dickerson's craftsmanship respects both his subjects and his audience. A good number of those in this audience have lived what the film documents.

The room was abuzz with happy anticipation, and the clack of folding chairs, as the SRO crowd settled in for the show. Emcee, Edward Brooks, who serves as Albemarle County's Program Coordinator for the Yancey Center, welcomed the crowd, pitched a few upcoming events, and introduced Lorenzo Dickerson, who said a few words. Dignitaries in attendance were recognized: members of the School Board, naturally, and others. The presence of School Board Chair, Jonno Alcaro, and Vice-Chair, Graham Paige, who grew up in the Porters community and whose early education took place in those black classrooms, was acknowledged. Scottsville was well represented by Mayor Nancy Gill, and our Scottsville District School Board Rep. Ellen Osborne. Siri Russell, Director of the County's Department of Equity and Inclusion, was recognized, along with Dr. Andrea Douglas, who is the Executive Director of The African American Heritage Center at the Jefferson School, in Charlottesville. Dr. Douglas earned some appreciative chuckles, and a couple of good-natured boos, when she confessed to being a yankee and, therefore, mostly unaware of the subject matter at hand; though that PhD after her name suggests that she knew more than she let on. Finally, lights dimmed and the movie screen was illuminated.

State Senator, Harry F. Byrd Jr's voice filled the room. Said he, the people of Virginia would not stand for the "mixing of the races." The time was 1956. Byrd's father, a U. S. Senator and boss of the political machine which ran Virginia, Harry F. Byrd was the architect of so called Massive Resistance, a plan to derail the desegregation of the nation's public schools as mandated by the 1954 U. S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. The plan Byrd hatched called for the various States to outlaw desegregation - the federal court be damned. Which is what Virginia, and other states of the old Confederacy did. And those laws had teeth. Any school district in the Commonwealth which desegregated would see its schools closed. Many schools closed and many private, whites-only schools opened. De jure Massive Resistance had turned into de facto massive chaos. When districts in Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Warren County planned to open as desegregated jurisdictions, the issue went back to court, where the Virginia Supreme Court struck down the Massive Resistance laws. Then, in 1958, the U. S. Supreme Court, in *Cooper v. Aaron*, cited the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause in clarifying the language in its *Brown* decision and declaring, unequivocally, that desegregation was the law of the land.

With no legal recourse, segregationist states or localities could only flout the laws and, as many did, intimidate black citizens by various means, including violence. Back to square one, the modern civil rights movement continued its decades-long quest to secure people's rights under law.

Thus does Dickerson begin his film at the end, with desegregation. Then he



Mary Waltine, Graham Paige, Fannie Loudon, and Edward Brooks gather after the show.  
Photo by Patrick Healy

backs up, and lets his story unfold in a wide-ranging and entertaining manner, using standard documentary tropes. Experts are posed before overflowing bookshelves. Their heads talk. Elderly eyewitnesses share their anecdotes from couches, church pews, or front porches. Still photos linger on the screen while old recordings, or narration provide the visuals with context. Many of the photographs are striking - worth every one of the 10,000 words each has replaced. A dilapidated windowless shack, lifted a few inches above the boggy ground by its dry-laid brick piers, is typical. Some buildings shown look pretty good. A couple don't look safe to enter. A typical interior shot will feature a couple dozen children of all ages packed into about 200 square feet of space. The first graders will stare, deer in the headlights, at the camera lens, while the high schoolers pose as the young men and women they are; some shy, others confident. One looks to see which of these kids might have caught a glimpse of those other worlds, beyond rural Albemarle County. Eyes on the prize, indeed.

The Rosenwald schools get their due. These were named for Julius Rosenwald who, over a century ago, teamed up with educator Booker T. Washington to build thousands of schools for African American children in the Jim Crow South. There were several Rosenwald schools here in Albemarle. Though structurally simple, the Rosenwald Schools were sophisticated in design; bright, clean, safe, and warm in the winter. The classrooms were bathed in light which entered through ranks of tall windows.

The real stars of the show are the alumni of Albemarle's Black

Classrooms who share their memories. It seems that almost every rural crossroads had a colored school; and Albemarle County, from Reconstruction to desegregation was almost exclusively rural. If, for any reason, one of the colored schools closed down, the displaced families would figure out how to open another one. More than a dozen men and women detail the events, memorable or mundane, which filled their days from childhood to young adulthood. Dickerson captures the personalities of his subjects as well as the range of emotions which accompany their testimonies. Eyes will radiate a flash of anger. A narrative will abruptly pause to accommodate choked-back emotion. Pride is much in evidence, and rightly so. Schools with almost no books would consistently produce excellent academic results. Children treated as second class, or worse, perennially won first place honors in statewide competitions. Laughter frequently punctuates these stories. In fact, the tears/laughter ratio here is about what you'd see at the wake of one who has lived long, and well. Though it's a different kind of grief, it draws the same reaction. This laughter, whether a rueful chuckle or a hearty belly laugh, tells us something about what is going on. For neither Dickerson nor his subjects are presenting a victim's lament. His documentary, their story, is a victor's memoir. Jim Crow, evil in its principles and bitter in its particulars, was defeated by a persistence learned in the homes and schools of those it sought to destroy. *Albemarle's Black Classrooms* shows us how the good guys won.

After the screening everyone reconvened in the cafeteria to enjoy heaps of Brown's renowned fried chicken, and some scrumptious cheddar cheese, which Gail Hobbs-Page brought along from her Caromont Farm creamery. Thus fortified, the group settled into an early evening, filled with yet more stories.

*Albemarle's Black Classrooms* is well worth watching. Twice, if you like.



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Judi Price, Advertising Director  
Judi.valleypublishing@gmail.com





## New Amish Market Now Open

By Martha Louis  
Correspondent

Buckingham has a new Amish Market - *Spring Hollow Farm Market* opened on March 5th in the old Bates Market on Rt 15 S. Delicious Amish bakery items, fresh produce, and bulk items available. They are open Mon- Thurs 7:30-5:00 and Fri 7:30-7:00. Saturday 8:00-4:00.



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### Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

F	R	E	E	A	B	B	O	T	A	G	E	D
R	E	A	M	C	R	E	D	O	P	U	L	E
A	R	G	O	M	O	D	E	M	R	I	S	E
N	U	L	L	S	E	T	A	B	I	D	E	D
K	N	E	L	H	O	S	T	I	L	E		
				I	I			U	P	O	N	B
N	A	M	E	P	L	A	T	E	S	P	O	O
E	V	E	N	L	I	S	L	E	I	O	N	A
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O	W	E	B	O	L	D	A	R	E			
				O	L	I	V	I	E	R	C	A
S	P	R	I	T	E			U	T	O	P	I
L	O	I	N	R	A	B	B	I	P	L	U	G
A	N	T	E	D	R	I	L	L	L	A	G	S
P	E	E	R	O	C	T	E	T	E	C	H	T

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